THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840].

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (PSALM 100: 1-3).

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A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

THE Latter-day Saints unite with the people of every creed and tongue and race in the general commemoration of the day observed throughout Christendom as the anniversary of the God-Man's earthly birth. To Him be honor and service and praise! In Him was combined the human and the divine in perfect unity. Whether viewed as Deity embodied or as mortal deified He shines out in the history of the earth as the one effulgent Sun that is the light and glory of the world, compared to whom all mundane luminaries are but as glittering satellites. He was indeed the Master among men, and appears more and more in His true nature and character as the centuries pass on and each succeeding Christmas holiday is celebrated. We bow to Him as the veritable Son of the living God in the fullest sense of the hallowed term. As Mary was His saintly mother, so the Mighty God was His everlasting and literal Father. He was "the only begotten" of Deity, in the flesh, to die that man may live. This we once more affirm and declare as a glorious truth and a fundamental of "Mormon" faith. However this may be regarded by dissenting persons and societies, all enlightened men and women who have looked upon His works and studied His doctrines and example, yield to Him the palm as the greatest of mankind, and with them we join in adoration at this festive season of the year, the Christmas of the nations.

While rejoicing over the birth of the Incomparable One, the

light of our gladness is overshadowed with the warclouds that have darkened the skies of Europe, and our songs and salutations of joy and good will are rendered sadly discordant by the thunders of artillery and the groans of the wounded and dying, echoing from afar, but harrowing to our souls as the awful tidings come sounding o'er the sea. Nations rising against nations, brothers against brothers, "Christians" against "Christians," each invoking the aid of the God of love in their gory strife and claiming fellowship with the Prince of peace! What an awful spectacle is thus presented before the angelic host, a band of whom sang the immortal song of "good will toward men" at the birth of the babe of Bethlehem!

The sudden "outpouring" of the spirit of war upon the European nations which startled the whole world and was unexpected at the time of its occurrence, had been long expected by the Latter-day Saints, as it was foretold by the Prophet Joseph Smith on Christmas day, December 25th, 1832, in that remarkable revelation on the subject of war, giving particulars of the outbreak of the Civil War in the United States, twenty-eight years later, "beginning at the rebellion of South Carolina," and the prophecy was literally fulfilled, as may be seen from verse three of section eighty-seven of the Doctrine and Covenants, which says:

"For behold, the Southern States shall be divided against the Northern States, and the Southern States will call on other nations, even the nation of Great Britain, as it is called, and they shall also call upon other nations, in order to defend themselves against other nations; and thus war shall be poured out upon all nations."

We need not quote further on this matter. The entire revelation was published in 1851 at Liverpool, England, in a pamphlet entitled, "The Pearl of Great Price," which contained many choice divine communications. This was ten years before the breaking out of the Civil War in our own country.

In consequence of the sudden and widespread uprising of European nations, advice was given by the national administration, through Secretary Bryan, to all Americans to leave at once the countries involved. We were moved upon to co-operate to some extent in the execution of this counsel, and therefore our missionaries in France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium were withdrawn from their fields of labor there, to return home or be transferred to other places. It was deemed wise also to withdraw most of the missionaries from Holland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, leaving only a sufficient number to take care of the work, with a view to a revival as soon as opportunities would be afforded, and to call upon some local elders to aid in the care of the property of the Church in those countries. The missionary work in Great Britain has been continued, as well as in other parts of the world, and will be carried on as the Lord may open the way, but will not be abandoned entirely.

The horrors of these conflicts are made still more dreadful by the sufferings of the widows and orphans and the sorrows of the relatives and friends of the soldiers in the trenches and at the battle's front; also by the destruction of famed triumphs of art, of grand structures of bygone centuries and of modern marvels of skill and science and culture, now lying in ruins. The waste of wealth and splendor thus effected, and the enormous debts entailed cannot be recovered but by ages of toil and riches untold. The cries for relief that salute our ears and sadden our souls are receiving responses worthy of the season and the needs of the times. They should not be mere spurts of charity, but be continued as necessity requires. At the same time it must not be forgotten that there are hosts of needy on our own shores and within our reach, who are fit objects for our benevolence, and He whom we now delight to honor reminded us that "the poor ye have always with you," and left them as a legacy to His true disciples.

The Latter-day Saints are to be congratulated on the efficient system by which means are obtained and expended for the worthy poor, so that none need be unsupplied, not only at Christmas time, but whenever want is felt and misfortune overtakes their neighbors. The monthly fast offerings and the contributions from the tithes and Relief Society funds, judiciously distributed, form a source of supply that meets the situation as the Lord has directed. In these times of need the generous and able should increase their liberality, and the help afforded, whether to the poor at home or the suffering abroad, should be extended through authorized channels and not be scattered indiscriminately.

The troubles in Mexico have greatly affected our colonies in that land. Our people there were advised to withdraw and either make new homes at convenient localities in Utah, or obtain lands or suitable employment near the border, so that when conditions shall be changed they may obtain that redress which is their due and if possible rebuild and restore the settlements thus vacated. Some of them have returned, and are doing their best to retain their homes and properties, but are in continual danger of incursions from brigands and other disturbers of the peace. At present there appears to be little prospect of permanent order in that unhappy land.

Notwithstanding the obstacles in the way, the gospel propaganda is extending and numerous additions to the Church have been made both at home and abroad since our last Christmas address, some of them as far off as the East Indies and Japan. In the various parts of the Union, also, converts have been made in large numbers, and the missions there are in a flourishing condition. This can be said also of the work of the Lord in Great Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, the Society Islands, Hawaii and in other places where our faithful missionaries have labored with praiseworthy zeal and

gratifying success. The erection or purchase of suitable, and in many cases, beautiful meeting-houses abroad has aided greatly in our missionary work, and for this we are grateful to God and our friends who have assisted in their acquisition. There has also been great advance in the construction of new places of worship in our home settlements; modern improvements also have been added to edifices already erected, requiring the expenditure of large sums of money from the general Church funds, as well as contributions from faithful saints and sympathizing friends.

The building and furnishing of Church high schools and academies, and amusement halls, gymnasiums, etc., have entailed much outlay, but the effects thereof have been so advantageous as to warrant the expense. The new wing to the Latter-day Saints' Hospital in this city, including up-to-date modern equipments and appliances, marks one more step in the way of Church building improvements that give evidence of the broad spirit of advancement and humanitarian feeling which animates the Church of Christ. Good progress has been made upon the large edifice for the use of Church offices, including the Historian's office, the leading quorums of the Priesthood and other organizations, and when completed it will be another structure of which our people may be proud.

The increase of attendance at the holy Temples has been greater, particularly in Salt Lake City, than ever before, and the ordinances for the living and for the dead have been performed in greater numbers than in any year since these sacred edifices were erected. Thus the work of salvation is going forward with rapid strides, and hundreds of thousands of the departed are rejoicing in the spirit world, in unison with our gladness at this Christmastide.

The classwork that has been developed in the Genealogical Society of Utah has aroused great attention and enthusiasm among those who desire to understand the means by which a knowledge of their ancestors may be obtained, and arranged for the performance of that proxy work that can only be attended to within the sacred precincts of the Temples of the Lord. Highest encomiums are due to those active instructors engaged in this labor of love. New stakes and wards have been organized in Zion, bringing to the front hundreds of active men and women to fill the offices in the Priesthood and the various auxiliary societies, developing their energies, and giving them opportunities to gain eternal jewels for their crowns of glory, when all shall be rewarded according to their works. In this way "Zion is growing," and the increase of faith and devotion exhibited by the members of the Church gives great encouragement to all who participate in the labors needful for the work of redemption.

Much improvement has been made in the continuous work of the ward teachers, and the saints generally are being visited in their homes and taught the things of the kingdom and their res-

pective duties as required by the revelations of God. The quarterly conferences in the Stakes of Zion have been regularly held and largely attended. The Twelve Apostles and the Presiding Council of the Seventies, with other prominent elders of the Church, have been diligent and untiring in their travels and ministrations among the people. The Presiding Patriarch has traveled extensively and the local Patriarchs have united with him in their official duties in blessing the people. The Bishops also, and their Counselors as well as the Presidents of Stakes, their Counselors and the High Councils have exhibited renewed activity in their arduous labors for the benefit of the people under their watchcare. The results of their splendid work are to be seen in order, peace, good will and devotion of the saints in this state and the regions surrounding. The Presiding Bishopric, with their aids, have continued with increased activity the remarkable labors for which their office has become famous, in the keeping of tithing and other records in perfect order and accuracy, accounting for every cent of receipts and expenditures.

The clerical and other work performed by the attaches of the President's office is also entitled to the highest commendation, as every person connected therewith has been faithful and diligent, and all the accounts kept and work done have been accomplished in the spirit of willing service that places it fully in line with the duties alluded to as associated with the Presiding Bishop's office. Every man and woman in each of the departments has been engaged, heart and soul, in the regular daily occupation with a fidelity that is admirable and worthy of the positions they occupy. The Historian's Office also is conducted with the assidnity, intelligence and comprehension of details required, that demands encomiums equal, at least, to those already passed upon other employees of the Church. The compiling of historical data proceeds with a view to the publication, eventually, of the important details which are necessary to Church history. The records in the Temples also are kept in perfect order, according to the revelations of God, and the instructions of the presiding authorities, involving great labor and close application, as well as accuracy and precision, showing fully the labors performed in behalf of both living and the dead.

The Church publications form a powerful aid in the dissemination of intelligence concerning the progress of the Church and in advocacy of the doctrines and principles revealed in the latter-day dispensation, for the enlightenment of the saints and people of all sects and societies throughout the world. The *Deseret News*, in both daily and semi-weekly editions, continues to be the leading periodical of the Church, having all the modern facilities of a publishing enterprise, with its competent business management, editorial and reportorial staff, linotype and stereotype machinery, book-binding and job departments, power presses and all the equip-

ments of a first class establishment. The *Bikuben* in the Danish language, the *Utah Posten* in the Swedish language, the *Beobachter* in German, and *De Utah Nederlander* in Dutch, all in Salt Lake City, with many excellent papers published in various parts of Utah and surrounding states, are worthy of the support and attention of people everywhere.

The *Improvement Era*, a monthly magazine, organ of the Young Mens' Mutual Improvement Association and of the Priesthood quorums, stands in the front rank of literary periodicals. The *Juvenile Instructor*, organ of the Sunday School Union, has maintained its enviable reputation for over half a century as a first-class monthly, and is not surpassed by any magazine for young people. The Relief Society has a monthly magazine called the *Bulletin*, which is doing excellent work among the organizations of that association. The *Young Woman's Journal*, also a monthly magazine, organ of the Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations, and the *Children's Friend*, organ of the Primary Associations, are also flourishing periodicals, each in its own sphere, spreading information and giving wise counsel suited to the conditions of the different societies represented. *Liahona the Elders' Journal*, published in Independence, Missouri, represents all the Church missions throughout the United States, and is also doing magnificent work. Abroad, the *Millennial Star* still shines, as of old, as the leading luminary in the Church firmament, which for over seventy-four years has shed abroad the light of the gospel throughout the European countries. The Scandinavian *Stjerne*, the Swedish *Nordstjärnan*, the Dutch *Ster*, the New Zealand *Messenger*, and the Society Islands *Te Heheuraa Api*, also reflect the light of truth and aid in the great work of promulgating the gospel of peace.

All the auxiliary societies are being conducted with zeal and energy and wisdom. The Religion classes, the Primaries, the Sunday schools, including the Parents' classes, the Young Mens' and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations, the Relief societies, as well as the quorums of the higher and the lesser priesthood, are all in praiseworthy condition, exhibiting that order and interest which are characteristic of the house of God. These are all causes of great rejoicing at this time of Christmas celebration, for they are preparing a people for the coming of the Lord, and getting them ready for the work of promulgating the doctrines of Christ, and diffusing the spirit of harmony and peace throughout the world, which will certainly be accomplished after "this cruel war" is over, and the inhabitants of the countries now in conflict shall have been humiliated and brought to repentance, and to the realization of the folly as well as the wickedness of war, and will thus become ready to receive the messengers of salvation. For the sunshine of light and truth will be shed abroad when the dense clouds of wrath and bitterness and bloodthirstiness are dis-

pelled, and the world will yet enjoy the reign of righteousness and amity and brotherly love foreseen by all the holy prophets since the world began.

Another cause of great rejoicing and encouragement is the evident change of sentiment among thinking people everywhere in reference to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Numerous visitors to our chief cities have become acquainted with actual conditions here, in seeing the "fruits of 'Mormonism'" for themselves. Numerous tourists who have been on our Temple block and have obtained knowledge through our efficient Bureau of Information established there, have carried back to their homes an understanding of the truth concerning us. And the missionaries, in their travels, by their excellent example they set of purity in their lives, sincerity in their callings and the "love of the neighbor," shown forth in their gratuitous work for the uplifting of humanity, have made a favorable impression upon the public mind, and the former feeling of animosity has in a great degree changed to one of admiration.

In the recent tour of two of the First Presidency and party through the Central and Southern States and California missions, this change has been manifested in a most striking manner. In regions where our elders in times past have been beaten with many stripes, and some of them have lost their lives while promulgating the gospel of peace, this company of ministers have been received with the greatest respect and courtesy. Prominent people in the different cities that were visited came forward and expressed their good will and their appreciation of the discourses that were delivered and the presence among them of the servants of the Lord. The journey was made through seventeen different States of the Union, covering over six thousand one hundred miles of railway transportation, holding numerous crowded meetings, and paying brief visits to notable places, without any accident or misfortune; and the kindness exhibited and the aid afforded by railway officials everywhere, as well as the numerous friendly newspaper notices, combined to prove clearly that public opinion is changing wonderfully, and the faith and works of the Latter-day Saints are being discovered in their true light.

We acknowledge the hand of the Lord in all the events occurring in these latter days, and look for the complete accomplishment of His divine purposes concerning the redemption of the earth through Jesus Christ, His beloved Son. While we do not charge the Almighty with causing the evils of any kind that afflict humanity, and which we regard as the fruits of disobedience to His holy laws, we recognize the fact that He is over all and that He will eventually control everything to bring about His own almighty plans. The agency of man is not interfered with by Divine Providence. If men were not left free to choose the good

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THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1915.

EDITORIAL.

WHAT IS TRUTH?

When our Lord, before Pilate, declared that His kingdom was not one of the kingdoms of the world but the kingdom of truth, that Roman governor exclaimed, "What is truth?" (John 18: 38), as if to indicate his conviction that there is no truth; and ever since, that question has been asked with more or less sincerity. Truth to many seems to be as elusive as the will-o'-the-wisp that appears at night.

But perhaps never before has the difficulty of ascertaining the truth been as apparent as it is at present in the matter of the responsibility for the European war. Everybody deplores it, and everybody shrinks from shouldering the responsibility. In Germany a view is held diametrically opposite to that with which the British public is familiar. Recently some famous Germans, in a statement published in America, have drawn a picture of Germany defending herself against brutal neighbors bent on her destruction. They say, in part:

"The assertion of our enemies that Germany wanted war is ridiculous and absurd; on the contrary, it can be said that Germany never before endeavored more eagerly to preserve peace."

The German Imperial Chancellor, addressing the Reichstag a short time ago, took a similar view, when he said:

"It is evident to us who is responsible for this the greatest of all wars. The apparent responsibility falls on those in Russia who ordered and carried out the mobilization of the Russian Army. The real responsibility, however, falls on the British Government."

This is the German view. It is the universal opinion in the great German empire that Europe, envious of her growing military power and industrial influence, planned her destruction, and that the Germans now are fighting for their national existence.

In Great Britain, on the other hand, the responsibility is charged to the German government. Sir E. Grey shows from official documents that as far back as April 7th, 1913, the violation of Belgian neutral territory by some European power was regarded as a possibility, and that the question of England's attitude had already then been raised. Lately an Irish priest has published the following:

"During the two weeks preceding the outbreak of the war I happened

to be in the Bavarian Highlands. I saw large notices displayed in front of all the post offices declaring the Kriegszustand. These large posters were about three feet by two in size. The obvious truth is that Germany wanted war. These great posters declaring Kriegszustand were probably in the printers' hands in the first week in July, because they were in every wayside village post office soon after the middle of July ready to be posted up the moment word came over the telegraph wires."

The same clergyman points out that for the past twenty-five years German military leaders have planned for this war, by railroad construction, by the making of guns and ammunition, by the building of ships and aircraft, and in a thousand ways, and that in cafés and at banquets they have been toasting "the Day!" This expresses the English view, which seems to be corroborated by a speech made by Signor Giolitti in the Italian Chambers, the other day, in which he said that Austria contemplated action against Servia in 1913, long before the assassination of the Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand. His revelation, the dispatch says,

"Has caused general comment, especially among diplomatists, as it is the first official confirmation of the fact that the second Balkan war occurred only because Austria gave Bulgaria to understand that the latter could face an attack by her previous allies, as Vienna was ready to spring upon Belgrade."

We refer to this controversy, not because our purpose is to take sides, or to give even an opinion, this being outside the scope of this publication, as is well known to our readers. But we call attention to these divergent views on a topic in which all the world is interested, in order to illustrate how difficult it is to ascertain the truth even on a subject on which, we would think, no two opinions could be possible. The facts, at least as far as press reports go, are before the world; the war scenes are not laid in the interior of a "dark continent" whence no intelligence comes to the outside world, but in the very center of civilization. And yet, nobody outside a very narrow circle seems to know just how it came about. Millions of intelligent men and women in Germany and Austria honestly believe that they are victims of brute attacks, unprovoked and without justification. Millions in Russia, Great Britain, France and Belgium, just as sincere, and as intelligent and capable of weighing evidence, believe that they are fighting the battles of civilization against barbarism. "Truth," according to the Doctrine and Covenants, "is knowledge of things as they are," but this knowledge seems to be beyond the reach of the human mind, unassisted, even when the question appears to be most simple. Not until history shall have given her impartial verdict will the truth be fully known. Man, even in this instance, needs the revelation of history if he wants to know the truth.

If this is so, we need not wonder that there are so many divergent opinions on religious questions. We need not be surprised

if men, imperfect and weak; men consulting their own inclinations and interests; men indisposed to mental effort and independent thinking take all kinds of views regarding God and His children, and life here and hereafter, as the Prophet Isaiah (53: 6) expressed it: "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way." Nor need we wonder that man needs the light of revelation in order to find truth.

The Lord, in January, 1832, instructed His servants who had convened in conference at Amherst, Lorraine Co., Ohio, as follows: "Lifting up your voices as with the sound of a trump, proclaiming the truth according to the revelations and commandments which I have given" (Doc. and Cov., Sec. 75: 4), and this is the only way by which man can arrive at certainty on religious questions. By the revelations of God truth is unfolded. When He has spoken, that is the end of controversy; but there is no other infallible guide. Inspired men, such as apostles, etc., through whom revelations are given and explained, have been divinely appointed for the express purpose of establishing truth among the children of men and bringing about unity of faith and practice. That is their calling and office. Without them there is no salvation from error and darkness.

There is a remarkable illustration of man's dependence on inspired leadership for finding the truth, in the story of Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8: 26-39). The Ethiopian had a portion of the Scriptures. He read it diligently, and was a devout man. And yet, when Philip asked him if he understood the Scriptures he was reading, he answered in the negative. "How can I," he replied, "except some man should guide me?" Many people of our day claim that, as they have the Bible, they need no further revelation. But to understand the Bible is as important as to have one. "Understandest thou what thou readest?" If not, the reading is in vain. The Ethiopian needed the instructions of Philip just as much as he needed the word of God in the written roll which he had. And so, to-day, mankind needs the guidance of the inspired servants of the Lord, whose office it is to declare His will, and it needs the influence of the Holy Spirit in order that they may be able to give heed to their instructions. They need that Spirit to bear witness within them of the truth. There is no other way to escape error and to find the road that leads to eternal exaltation.

J. M. S.

When righteous persons die, their spirits also go into the spirit world, but they go to work with the servants of God to help to do good, and to bring about the purposes of the Almighty pertaining to this earth; while the wicked spirits, those who have been wicked in this probation, take the opposite course, just the same as they did here.—Heber C. Kimball.

A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM THE FIRST PRESIDENCY.

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and refuse the evil, or vice versa, there would be no righteousness or even reason in bringing them to judgment. In consequence of the power of volition they become responsible beings, and therefore will receive the results of their own doings. They will be rewarded or punished according to their works, when the books are opened and they are judged out of the things written therein.

God, doubtless, could avert war, prevent crime, destroy poverty, chase away darkness, overcome error, and make all things bright, beautiful and joyful. But this would involve the destruction of a vital and fundamental attribute in man—the right of agency. It is for the benefit of His sons and daughters that they become acquainted with evil as well as good, with darkness as well as light, with error as well as truth, and with the results of the infraction of eternal laws. Therefore He has permitted the evils which have been brought about by the acts of His creatures, but will control their ultimate results for His own glory and the progress and exaltation of His sons and daughters, when they have learned obedience by the things they suffer. The contrasts experienced in this world of mingled sorrow and joy are educational in their nature, and will be the means of raising humanity to a full appreciation of all that is right and true and good. The foreknowledge of God does not imply His action in bringing about that which He foresees, nor make Him responsible in any degree for that which man does or refuses to do. The comprehension of this principle makes clear many questions that puzzle the uninformed as to the works and power of Deity.

We invite all people to search for the truth as it is in Him, and to be joyful over its perception and practice, and for the great fact of the coming of the Redeemer to lift mankind out of death and hell and suffering into the light and glory that is to be revealed in the triumph of the Christ over sin and Satan and sorrow, into the perfect joys of the Father's presence when all things are made new. At this Christmas time we breathe out blessings and good will to all humanity. Toward those who have persecuted and maligned and borne false witness against us and our people we feel no enmity and desire no retribution. We only hope for their repentance and conversion. We pray that peace may come to the jarring nations abroad, and that it may be fully enjoyed by the saints at home. We desire the amelioration of conditions everywhere. We pray for the rich benisons of the gospel of Christ to rest upon all His people, and hope that the Christmas of 1914 will prove the happiest of all they have known. Let joy be in every heart, praise and thanksgiving in every soul, and as the

years roll by may they become brighter and better until the earth itself is redeemed, and from the heights above and the depths beneath shall hear songs of praise to God and His Son, the everlasting Savior, with peace on earth and good will to men.

JOSEPH F. SMITH,
ANTHON H. LUND,
CHARLES W. PENROSE,
First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

BRITISH RELIEF SOCIETY WORK.

THERE has been quite a revival of interest in Relief Society work in the British mission the past three months. During that time Sister Ida B. Smith visited all the conferences, except the Irish, and held meetings with the sisters. These gatherings were well attended, and an excellent spirit prevailed. Sister Smith's addresses to the ladies were full of practical instructions and good counsel, and were highly appreciated. As a result new organizations were effected in some places, and new members were added to the branches already existing.

There are now forty-two Relief Society organizations in the mission. Leeds conference has seven; Newcastle, Liverpool, Birmingham and Nottingham conferences have five each; Hull and London, four; Manchester, three; and Sheffield, Norwich, the Scotch and Irish conferences, one each. Complete statistical reports have not been obtained, but according to the data received, there are 507 members enrolled. The meetings are held, in some branches weekly; in some, every other week, and in some, once a month, and the average attendance is 416, or somewhat like 82 per cent of the number enrolled. They have, during the year, made 1,394 visits to sick and needy persons and distributed £91 2s. 6d.

One feature of the Relief Society work, since the outbreak of the war, has consisted in making scarfs and other articles of clothing for the soldiers in the field. This work has been done in conjunction with other patriotic British women's organizations which were called into existence for the purpose of alleviating, as far as possible, the sufferings of the men at the front, and that the labor of love of our Relief societies has been very much appreciated may be judged from the letters of acknowledgment received, of which the subjoined copies are samples. The secretary of the Lady Mayoress' Information Bureau for Co-ordinating Effort on Behalf of the Sick and Wounded, Liverpool, writes:

"1 Gambier Terrace, Liverpool,
November 26th, 1914.

"Dear Madam,

"Please convey our very grateful thanks to the Women's Branch

of the Relief Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for the exceedingly handsome gifts which we have received from them.

"We wish to assure all your workers that their beautiful belts and mufflers will be greatly appreciated by the recipients who are undergoing so many hardships. We are daily receiving most grateful acknowledgements for the consignments already sent out, and feel very grateful to your working party for assisting us to meet the many demands which we receive daily.

"Yours faithfully,
JESSIE BEAVAN,
Hon. Secretary."

MRS. IDA B. SMITH,
295 Edge Lane, Liverpool.

This letter was received in reply to the following communication from Sister Ida B. Smith to the Lady Mayoress:

"Durham House,
295 Edge Lane, Liverpool,
October 22nd, 1914.

"Dear Madam,

"These scarfs and cuffs have been knitted and are now contributed to the soldiers of Great Britain by the women of the Relief Society of the Liverpool Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. With this offering go also our prayers that the Almighty Father will assuage the bodily pain and mental suffering of those now sacrificing themselves in the interests of what they believe to be the principles of right and justice. May our faith and works and prayers bring a fair degree of comfort and hope to some, thereby lessening their pain and distress. With deepest sympathy for all who suffer, we are yours, the friends of our neighbors,

"IDA B. SMITH,
In behalf of the Liverpool Relief Society."

THE LADY MAYORESS,
Liverpool.

The following letters are self-explanatory:

"Town Hall,
Keighley, 1914.

"The Mayoress of Keighley acknowledges with thanks The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' kind gift of socks and scarfs and foot powder, which will be forwarded to the military authorities."

"Newark,
Paisley, Scotland,
December 5th, 1914.

"MRS. HUNTER,

"Dear Madam:—On behalf of the Ladies' Work Parties Committee, I write to thank you and your work party most heartily for knitting the socks which we received yesterday. They are so well made, and I am sure will be much appreciated by our soldiers. The mitts and hose tops

are exceedingly nice, too. * * * We are sending you another half spindle of wool and would be glad if your work party would knit it into socks, and when finished send them to 110 Candeyside. Kindly convey the thanks of our committee to the members of your work party, and believe me,

"Yours sincerely,
E. C. M. GREENLEES,
Treasurer."

"British Red Cross Society,
Derbyshire Branch (Borough of Derby),
December 22nd, 1914.

"Dear Madam,

"I beg to acknowledge with many thanks the kind contribution sent to the Derbyshire Soldiers and Sailors Comforts Committee by the Latter-day Saints' Relief Society. Their help and sympathy is much appreciated.

"Yours faithfully,
CONSTANCE GREEN."

MRS. BRADLEY.

It will be seen from these communications that the members of the Relief societies have, through their patriotic efforts for the soldiers, come in contact with some of the foremost ladies in the land, and it is our fond hope that this has not been in vain. They have donated in all three hundred and fifty-one articles of various descriptions, and all the material of which these were made has been bought with money collected by special efforts, so that the regular funds of the Society have been used, as originally intended, only for the benefit of the poor.

It deserves special mention that the sisters in Dublin, as well as other Church members there, some of whom are of German extraction, cheerfully joined in this relief work; for it shows that when the gospel of Jesus Christ fills the heart nationality is no obstacle to fulfilling the law of Christ.

The Relief Society of the Church was organized by the Prophet Joseph Smith, in Nauvoo, on the 17th of March, 1842. Among the duties enjoined upon the members that day were these, "to provoke the brethren to good works, look after the needs of the poor, and perform charitable acts." From this we may judge of the importance of the organization. It was to be, not only a dispenser of charity but also a moral force, provoking the brethren to good works, and this mission the Society has faithfully performed. It was the pioneer organization of women, for in this respect, as in so many others, the Prophet Joseph was far ahead of his time. The Relief Society of the Church was followed by a number of womens' societies in the world, and in many parts they are still fighting for rights and privileges which the "Mormon" women have had and enjoyed, as far as the Church could grant them, for more than seventy years.

May God bless the sisters who are engaged in this work in the British mission and elsewhere. May they be blessed in all that belongs to them. May they have joy and satisfaction in the performance of their labor of love, remembering the word of our Lord: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

J. M. S.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WAR.

December 2.—Turks pillage banks in Palestine and massacre Christians. Belgrade reported taken by the Austrians. De Wet reported captured.

December 3.—King George visited the troops on the firing line in France.

December 5.—King George and King Albert met on the Belgian frontier.

December 7.—Some of the French ministries, including that of war, removed from Bordeaux to Paris. The *Journal Officiel* to be published in Paris again.

December 8.—The German cruisers *Scharnhorst*, *Gneisenau* and *Leipsic* sunk by an English squadron off the Falkland Islands. Servians recapture Valjevo. The German cruiser *Nürnberg* sunk off the Falkland Islands.

December 9.—Lodz reported evacuated by the Russians.

December 10.—General Botha announces the end of the rebellion in South Africa. German submarines said to have made an unsuccessful attempt to enter the harbor of Dover.

December 13.—The British submarine B11 dived under five rows of mines in the Dardanelles and sunk the Turkish warship *Messudiyeh*, near Fort Nagara, and then escaped uninjured.

December 14.—Serbian troops re-enter Belgrade.

December 16.—German cruisers shell West Hartlepool, Whitby and Scarborough. Several people were killed; others injured. This is supposed to be part of an important German movement in the North Sea.

December 19.—The Khedive of Egypt deposed and his uncle, Hussein, appointed Sultan under British protection.

December 25.—Seven English hydroplanes attacked German warships off Cuxhaven. Escorted by light cruisers and destroyers they started from Heligoland for the mouth of the Elbe. They were met by Zeppelins, seaplanes and submarines, but reached the Chillig roads at Cuxhaven and dropped bombs. One hydroplane was wrecked.

December 29.—The Austrians driven back across the Carpathians.

December 30.—The American government in a friendly note to Great Britain asks for information concerning the alleged interference with the American export trade by detention of vessels from American ports.

THE DAYS OF A TREE.

THE Prophet Isaiah predicts a time when human life shall be prolonged far beyond the present limits. Referring to the people of God during that age he says: "They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands" (Is. 65: 22).

"As the days of a tree." Inquiry as to the general age of trees being put to an authority of the forestry service at Washington, it was said that the pine tree attained 700 years as a maximum length of life; 425 years were the allotted span of the silver fir; the larch lived 275 years; the red beech, 245; the aspen, 210; the birch, 200; the ash, 170; the elder, 145; the elm, 130. The heart of the oak begins to rot at about the age of 300 years. Of the holly, it is said that there is a specimen 410 years old near Aschaffenburg, Germany.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Baptisms.—On Sunday, December 13th, 1914, a baptismal service was held in Wigan (Liverpool conference), where two souls were added to the Church of Christ, Elder Thomas Peterson officiating.

A baptismal service was held at the Burnley Baths, Burnley (Liverpool conference), December 26th, 1914, when five souls were added to the Church. Elders Niels J. Anderson and Alfred Theurer officiated.

A baptismal service was held at "Deseret," 152 High Road, South Tottenham, London, N. (London conference), Sunday, December 27th, 1914, when one soul was admitted into the fold of Christ, Elder R. Barnes officiating. On December 31st, 1914, another soul entered the fold of Christ by baptism, President John A. Maynes officiating.

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